TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SECOND COUNCIL.

FIRST SESSION, 1101.

Friday, the 6th November, 1925.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council re-assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, a Eleven thirty-five of the Clock, the President presiding.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12.*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Method of Assessment of Edavagai Lands.

73. **MR. T. J. MATTHEW** (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the method employed by Government in assessing gardens to tax;

(ii) whether they take into consideration the total yield of the garden or only the number and *taram* and kind of assessable trees;

(iii) whether the same method and rate as obtain in regard to Government lands were not adopted in assessing the lands of the Edapalli *Edavagai* in the recent settlement ; and

(iv) whether the practice in vogue in the other *Edavagais* is not the same?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (i) & (ii) The member is referred to Rule 40 of the *Revised Puduval Rules* dated the 25th February, 1923.

(iii) Yes.

(iv) Yes. It was the same in respect of certain *Edavagais* also, which were settled by Government.

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MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): With regard to part (iv), it is stated that the practice is the same in respect of certain *Edavagais* also which were settled by Government. With regard to the *Edavagais* that have not been settled by Government, do the Government know what the practice is?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The practice is not in keeping with the other *Edavagais*. The rent rolls and other things are not in accordance with those of the Sirkar, and there is no such restriction in their case.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): My question is not in regard to the keeping of rent rolls.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): What is the practice the member is referring to, then?

MR. T. J. MTTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Regarding the method of assessment.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Well, in the case of Vanjipuzha *Edavagai*, the lands have not been settled at all. The assessment there depends upon the contractual relations between the Chief and his tenants.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): My question is not as regards the relation between the tenants and the Chief. I want to know what the practice is as regards the method of assessment in such *Edavagais*.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is a matter resting with the Chief and the tenants.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Do the Government mean to say that there is no practice as such?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government do not interfere in that. How can there be a practice when Government do not interfere? It is left to the Chief and his tenants to settle the assessment and the terms on which the tenants hold under the Chief.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): My question is, as between the Chief and the tenants, what is the practice?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That varies with individual tenants. It is based on agreements between Chief and the tenants. That may vary with each *Edavagai*.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Is it only an inference by the Member or an information obtained by Government?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member did not want that information to be obtained particularly.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): The member now stated that the practice varies with regard to the individual tenants and the Chief.

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): With regard to that part of the answer, my question was whether that answer is the result of an inference or of an information obtained by Government.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is based upon information that Government have at present. No special information was called for in connection with this particular interpellation.

Travancore and the British Empire Exhibition.

74. **MR. A. J. JOHN** (*Vaikam*). (1) With reference to the report on the Travancore Section of the Empire Exhibition published in the *Government Gazette* dated the 5th May, 1925, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the address of the Nottingham firm, referred to in the paragraph on "Lace and Embroidery" on page 15 of the report; and

(*b*) the address of another firm referred to in the same paragraph as having offered to supply yarns of the required quality at wholesale prices?

(2) Will they also state whether Dr. Kunjan Pillai carries on correspondence with them either to give the required information and facilities to dealers in lace work or otherwise?

(3) What is the expenditure incurred for taking back the articles not disposed of at Wembley?

(4) Was a special staff employed at Wembley for the Travancore Section; and, if so, what were the pay and work of the staff thus employed?

(5) (*a*) Is it a fact that the Special Officer for the Empire Exhibition touched at Italy on his way back?

(*b*) How long did he stay there?

(*c*) What is the expenditure incurred by the State on that account?

(6) (*a*) Who was in charge of the arrangements in the Travancore Section and the construction of the Travancore Pavilion?

(*b*) Was a firm employed for this work?

(*c*) If so, what was the sum paid to that firm for this work?

(7) (*a*) Did the Government sanction the publication of a pamphlet by the Special Officer at Wembley?

(*b*) How many copies were printed and at what cost?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to place a copy of the pamphlet on the table?

(8) (*a*) What were the exhibits reported to have been stolen from the Travancore Section at Wembley?

(*b*) What is the price of the articles stolen?

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